

and benefits, safe working conditions, and a fair shake not only for themselves but also on behalf of their union brothers and sisters' families.

The Holben's drive to serve their community goes beyond their day-to-day duties. John and Tasha enjoy volunteering at the NALC's national food drive, which is held the second Saturday of May. Union members volunteer to pick up food and then transport it to local food pantries. Food pantries are always happy to see the influx of food in May, because often-times they see a slump in donations following winter holidays.

John additionally serves as a pastor at the Community of Christ Church in Council Bluffs, where he, Tasha, and the congregation help clean up their neighborhood every Earth Day. Instead of hosting a normal church service on the Sunday closest to Earth Day, members of the church walk around and pick up litter. They're usually able to fill up several garbage bags as they clean up yards, streets, and sidewalks.

As we celebrate Labor Day this week, I'm especially appreciative of John and Tasha, who have fought long and hard to maintain their union and ensure safe and reliable delivery of the mail to their neighbors. Through their activism and volunteer work, John and Tasha have made Council Bluffs a better place to live and work. Please join me in honoring John and Tasha as our Iowans of the Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed one vote on Monday, September 20, 2021. On Roll Call vote No. 262, S. 189, The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, I would have voted YEA.

CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE'S COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Wheat Ridge's COVID-19 Response Team in Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge community who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on our local community, the entire country, and the rest of the world. The City's COVID Response Team is comprised of city staff and community members, including Steve Art, Amber Garrett, Diamante Hornyack, Allison Lewis, Robin Lofton, Cindy Peterson, Allison Scheck, and Sara Spaulding. As the city dealt with an unprecedented pandemic

and some of its darkest days, these men and women came to the aid of their community to help coordinate, develop and implement an effective and timely response to the various challenges and issues that have come up throughout the pandemic.

I thank every member of the COVID-19 Response Team for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice during this trying time, and congratulations for receiving this award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN IRIARTE WHITT

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Iriarte Whitt who passed away on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

John had a decades long career in public service working as an important advisor to several of Guam's key elected leaders over the years including Gov. Ricardo Bordallo, Gov. Carl Gutierrez, Congressman Robert Underwood, and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo.

He was proud of his Chamoru heritage and was a longtime member of the Guam Society of America. He understood what it meant to be a Pacific Islander and lived his life serving others. He was a true patriot and was proud of his military service.

As a graduate of the Air Force Academy and a B-52 Pilot, John had a tactical mind, which he put to good use developing political strategies and policy not just for the benefit of the people of Guam, but also for American Samoa and the rest of the territories.

When I was first elected to Congress, John was still the Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Bordallo and was a great help to my freshman office. He was quick to volunteer his time and expertise not only with matters of policy, but with fostering a sense of camaraderie among the territorial delegation.

His passing is not just a loss for Guam, but for the Pacific region at large. He will be missed.

REMEMBERING DIPLOMAT GEORGE S. VEST

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and praise the contributions George S. Vest made to U.S. foreign policy. Vest had a long career as a U.S. diplomat during the Cold War. He died on August 24 at the age of 102.

Among Ambassador Vest's accomplishments was representing the United States while initiating the 35-country multilateral diplomatic process that led to the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in August 1975. This process continues to this day as the Organization

for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or OSCE, based largely in Vienna with 57 participating countries. History records the U.S. approach to those negotiations, a Soviet initiative, in late 1972 and 1973, as one of damage control, but Vest, his team and his successors did better than that. Working with our friends and allies in Europe, and engaging our Soviet and Warsaw Pact adversaries directly, they laid the groundwork for overcoming the East-West divide with a direct and frank dialogue based on a comprehensive definition of security that included respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. At the time, addressing human rights issues in other countries was something diplomats hoped to avoid; over time it became recognized as essential to their security and developing relations. The negotiations also produced confidence-building measures designed to lessen the risk of accidental war during a time of heightened tensions.

Although neither Vest nor most of his fellow diplomats may have foreseen its potential value, their work eventually helped bring the Cold War to a peaceful end 30 years ago, and the OSCE continues to serve as a forum for addressing tension and instability in Europe to this day.

Even in the darker days of the Cold War, this diplomatic process showed many courageous human rights advocates—private citizens—that they were not alone. It gave them the hope to keep fighting for a better world. As long as it remains true to its original Helsinki principles, it still does, and always will.

As the Co-Chairman of the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), better known as the Helsinki Commission, I believe it is important that we recognize George Vest's early efforts. The U.S. Helsinki Commission was founded in 1976 and has since helped to ensure that the multilateral diplomatic process Vest started reflects not only U.S. interests but those of any country—indeed any person—who values freedom and democracy. As the elections just held in Russia demonstrate, work still remains.

George Vest was a combat veteran of World War II and later served in various diplomatic positions beyond those related to Helsinki, including as advisor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the State Department's liaison to the Defense Department, spokesman for the State Department Under Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, and U.S. ambassador to the European Union. Vest ended his career at the State Department as director general of the Foreign Service, recruiting and selecting future American diplomats.

Our debt to this fine public servant, and his legacy of promoting peace over decades, is boundless. I thank his living sons, George S. Vest IV and Henry Vest, for their father's historic service to our country.

POOR BOY RODS OF WHEAT RIDGE, CO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Poor Boy Rods of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of